

Calendario:**Sede: Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, UNAM****Horario: 12:00 a 14:00 hrs.****Fechas y Aulas: Martes 6 de agosto -- Aula 7
Miércoles 7 de agos --Aula 6
Martes 13 de agosto -- Aula 7
Miércoles 14 de agos--Aula 7
Martes 20 de agosto -- Aula 7
Miércoles 21 de agos--Aula 6****Seminar title:**

Semiotics of the Uncanny

Lecturer:

Dalila Honorato

Teaching language:

English (core communication) and Spanish (basic communication)

Scope:

Media & Visual Studies, Aesthetics, Phenomenology, History of Science, Sci-fi

Prerequisites:

Graduate studies.

Syllabus outline:

'Semiotics of the Uncanny' approaches alternative body types represented in media and art, and the cognitive dissonance resulting from the ambivalent perception of these bodies, here referred as uncanny corporeality. The uncanny is in this sense defined as the acrobatic equilibrium between phobia and paraphilia, recognized as the two extremes in the irrational behavior range scale. This seminar, placed within the fields of ecosemiotics and biosemiotics, conjugates the topics of bio-horror, body alteration, medical fetish, disability aesthetics, mythological anatomy, teratology, technodogma, xenomorphy and creative ritualistic behavior. Outcome of the seminar is the perception of agency in uncanny corporeality, as represented in media and art, with the identification of hybrid cognitive tools for self-sustainable narrative and through the queering of techno - guttural reflex and socially apprehended emotional triggers.

Objectives:

Contributing to the student's ability to:

- express proficiency in the usage of key concepts in semiotics and ability to integrate these in the adequate theoretical framework;
- distinguish signs as presented in a communication context and perceive their characteristics according to their specific cultural background;
- apply semiotic analysis across disciplines and according to the particular character of the medium with emphasis on moving pictures and visual arts;
- integrate supportive methodology from other sciences (psychology, anthropology, etc.) according to the characteristics of the object of analysis and the scope of the research.

Topics per class:

Day 1

Topic: "An informal intro": on semiotic theory and the concept of the uncanny

Duration: 2 hours

Reading: *The Uncanny*, Sigmund Freud

Day 2

Topic: "Could you please stop biting my neck dear?": on the sublime, gothic and monsters

Duration: 2 hours

Reading: *Dracula*, Bram Stoker

Day 3

Topic: "Oh yes doctor, let's talk about splatter...": on anatomy and human enhancement

Duration: 2 hours

Reading: *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley

Day 4

Topic: "Almost human... that is too creepy!", on androids and technophobia

Duration: 2 hours

Reading: *I, Robot*, Isaac Asimov

Day 5

Topic: "I think I might be a mutant after all", on biopunk and biotechnology

Duration: 2 hours

Reading: *I am Legend*, Richard Matheson

Day 6

Topic: "The truth is out where?", on extraterrestrials and aliens in a broad sense

Duration: 2 hours

Reading: Blood Relations: Feminist Theory Meets the Uncanny Alien Bug Mother, Lynda Zwinger. Source: *Hypatia*, Vol. 7, No. 2, Philosophy and Language (Spring, 1992), pp.

74-90. Published by: Wiley on behalf of Hypatia, Inc. Stable URL:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3809999> .

Other recommended readings:

The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde

The Metamorphosis, Frank Kafka

Coraline, Neil Gaiman

The Chrysalids, John Wyndham

The Children of Men, P.D. James

Synners, Pat Cadigan

The Left Hand of Darkness, Ursula K. Le Guin

Teaching methods:

Lecturing and classroom discussion.

Classroom equipment:

Computer, video projector, speakers and internet access.

Assessment:

Written assignment.